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With the facts that are known in regard to the clinical history of diphtheria and those which they had determined in their research, it is easy to make out a theory of the disease which reconciles all existing differences of opinion and seems to be true.

A child gets a catarrhal angina or trachitis. Under the stimulation of the inflammation products the inert micrococci in the mouth begin to grow; and, if the conditions be favorable, the sluggish plant may be finally transformed into an active organism, and a self-generated diphtheria results. It is plain that if this be correct there must be every grade of case between one which is fatal and one which is checked before it fairly passes the bounds of an ordinary sore throat. Every practitioner knows that such diversity does exist. Again, conditions outside of the body favoring the passage of inert into active micrococci may exist, and the air at last become well loaded with organisms, which, alighting upon the tender throats of children, may begin to grow and themselves produce violent angina, trachitis, and finally fatal diphtheria.

In the first instance we have endemic diphtheria as we see it in Philadelphia; in the second, the malignant epidemic form of the disease as it existed in Ludington. It is also apparent that in the endemic cases the plant whose activity has been developed within the patient may escape with the breath, and a second case of diphtheria be produced by contagion. It is also plain that as the plant gradually in such a case passes from the inert to the active state, there must be degrees of activity in the contagium, one case being more apt to give the disease than is another; also that the malignant diphtheria must be more contagious than the mild endemic cases.

OCTOBER 18.

The President, DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

A paper entitled "Revision of the Tertiary Species of *Arca* of the Eastern and Southern United States," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication.

The death of Dr. Benj. H. Coates, a member, was announced.

Notes on Mistletoes.—MR. THOMAS MEEHAN called attention to some fine specimens on the table of *Phoradendron juniperum*, var. *Libocedri* Engelm., and *Arceuthobium occidentale* var. *abietinum* Engelm., from Washoe Valley, Nevada, contributed by Mrs. Ross Lewers of Franktown and said it might be worth noting a few facts in relation to Mistletoes, which, though perhaps